

Regiment in the Army. The matter is being further considered in consultation with the Army Headquarters. The cost of raising the regiment, and other details have still to be computed.

The details of vacancies in various ranks existing at present in the Army are as under :

(a) **Officers** (Arms and services)

General	-	Nil
Lt. General	-	02
Maj General	-	02
Brigadier	-	02
Colonel	-	111
Lt. Colonel	-	79
Major	-	3706
Captain and below	-	8259
Total	-	12161

(b) **Officers**

Army Medical Corps	-	332
Military Nursing Service	-	449
Army Dental Corps	-	44
Total	-	825

(c) The deficiency in respect of Junior Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks in the Arms and Services is 58300 Army personnel.

Development of National Highway

2339 PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether 25 percent of the total goods traffic was being handled by the road transport in the year 1951 in the country;

(b) if so, whether by the year 2000 it is likely to go upto 87%;

(c) if not, the estimate of the Government in this regard;

(d) whether in view of the increasing pressure on roads network there is need to priority to the development of road network; and

(e) if so, the proposed targets for the expansion and development of National Highways alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (e). As per National Transport Policy Committee (NTPC), the share of road and rail for freight traffic in the year 1950-51 was 11:89 which changed to 32:68 in 1978. Even though the traffic demand has not been assessed thereafter, the freight traffic on roads has grown up considerably. However, it

has not been possible to adequately widen/expand the network due to resource constraints.

Water Transport Facility through Brahmaputra

2340. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start water transport facility between Guwahati and rest of the country through river Brahmaputra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). The river Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri is a National Waterway and is connected to Calcutta/Haldia ports by the transit and trade protocol route through Bangladesh and Sunderbans. The entire waterway route from Guwahati to Haldia/Calcutta is navigable by mechanically propelled vessels throughout the year and cargo vessels are plying between Guwahati and Calcutta region via Bangladesh. This water transport route extends beyond Calcutta along National Waterway No. 1 (Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly) upto Allahabad.

Setting up of Cargo Handling berths, etc. by Foreign Industries

2341. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several foreign industries have shown keen interest to set up specialised cargo handling berths, container terminals and oil jetties.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have examined those proposals; and

(d) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d). Private entrepreneurs including foreign investors have been permitted to participate in private sector participation proposals in the areas indicated in Statement-I. A list of proposals involving foreign investors which stand approved are given in Statement-II.

STATEMENT-I

Areas thrown open for Private Sector participation in Port Sector

Government has approved clear and transparent guidelines for private sector participation in ports to cover following areas :

- (1) Leasing out existing assets of the Port.
- (2) Construction/creation of additional assets, such as :
 - (a) Construction and operation of container terminals.